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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

Mr. C. Boyden Gray
Counsellor to the Vice President
Office of the Vice President of the United States
Room 280, Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. Gray:

The Central Intelligence Agency is currently reviewing our quarterly publication, Studies in Intelligence, in anticipation of releasing some of the articles to the public under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

In our Fall 1983 issue (Volume 27, Number 3), we reprinted a speech given by Vice President Bush at the Veterans of OSS dinner on 24 May 1983 on the occasion of the presentation of the Wm. J. Donovan award to another former Director of Central Intelligence, Mr. Richard Helms. A copy is attached. The speech, given before an open forum, was, of course, not classified. The Office of our present Director, Judge Webster, has reviewed the speech and has no objection to its release, but has requested that your office be notified of this pending FOIA request and proposed release.

If you have any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on

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Sincerely,

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Information and Privacy Coordinator



L-258-R

Role of intelligence

THE OBJECTIVE IS TO KEEP THE PEACE

From an address by Vice President George Bush at the Veterans of the OSS Dinner and presentation of the William J. Donovan Award to the Honorable Richard Helms.

... I'm honored to be here tonight participating in this ceremony, because I can't think of anyone who deserves the Donovan Award more than Dick Helms. Having inherited his job at CIA—if only for a short time—I gained a real respect and admiration for the magnitude of Dick's accomplishment over there.

Before Dick got into intelligence he was working for the other side—the press. In the thirties, Dick was a correspondent for United Press in London and later, Berlin, where he observed first hand the developments in the Nazi government. He was even able to get a personal interview with Adolph Hitler. I hear tell that this meeting was mentioned in the so-called Hitler diaries, although the scholars apparently became suspicious when the diaries referred to Dick as the future director of the CIA.

Anyway, Dick joined up early with Wild Bill Donovan's OSS, organizing intelligence networks from his vantage point in England and other stations throughout Europe.

Still serving in the OSS after the war, he closely observed Soviet methods and intransigence in Germany and Berlin. What he learned then made Dick Helms decide to stay on in government service. He became convinced that the United States would face many threats in the post-war world, and he realized that effective intelligence was vital if the democratic societies were to be able to defend themselves against those threats.

It's hard to imagine now, but in 1940 and 1941, Bill Donovan was a one-man CIA for Franklin Roosevelt. The OSS was brought into being in great part simply through the force of Donovan's determined personality.

A More Threatening Situation

Well, after World War II, it took other forceful personalities to define the role of our intelligence service in a very different, but equally threatening world situation. One might even say that with the introduction of nuclear weapons into the equation, the situation became even more threatening than it had been in the past. Dick Helms was instrumental in helping define that role. He has dedicated a good part of his life to the development of an Agency that is second to none in intelligence gathering and analysis. But just as important, one that could exist within a free and democratic society.

It has been said that the role of secret intelligence in a democratic society will always be an uncomfortable one. Secrecy is not what democratic societies are all about. They're about free and open discussion, the free and open exchange of ideas and information.

Keep the Peace

Unfortunately, there are certain unpleasant realities that we can't ignore. We must live in a world made insecure by international terrorism and expansionist totalitarian powers.

But the CIA can be very proud of the fact that at the same time that it is working tirelessly to protect American freedoms from foreign threats, it is fastidious in respecting the laws of the land. The CIA is conscientiously upholding the law, safeguarding the rights of American citizens.

I was asked at a press conference the other day how, as a politician, I would justify to the American people being head of the CIA. I said that I wear my directorship of that organization as a badge of honor. I've always considered my service there as an asset rather than a liability, and I'll feel that way till the day I die. I don't think I'd be standing here in this job right now if the American people felt any differently. I think they want a strong intelligence service. I think anybody realizes that in a world as troubled as this you need the best possible intelligence.

Excellence and Commitment

I'm proud of the time I was in the CIA, because I'm proud of the men and women who serve there. I can't praise highly enough the academic excellence of our intelligence community, and the commitment of these people who have put in a lifetime of service to their country—many of them anonymously. They never get to sit at the head table; they never see their names up in lights. But all of us are profoundly grateful that these extraordinarily talented and dedicated people have sacrificed their place in the sun so that the rest of us may live secure in our freedom.

I've been doing a lot of traveling recently, and my sense of things is that the post-Vietnam, post-Watergate inclination to tear down our intelligence agencies is behind us now. I think we all realize that we must build on what we have, and that we must give our intelligence community the support it needs to enable it to get its job done.

You know, just one indication of how essential our intelligence has become in this world is that we couldn't even begin to think about arms control if we didn't have a CIA and an intelligence community to check upon the other side to make sure they're playing by the rules. A negotiated settlement on strategic weapons must ultimately rely on intelligence for its verifiability. . . .

Well, I look at the CIA as a kind of preventative medicine. The objective is to keep the peace by keeping ourselves informed and our national security apparatus strong and healthy; that way it won't become necessary to fight a war, as it did almost a half-century ago, because we have grown weak or because an enemy misjudges the firmness of our resolve.

Maybe there will come a time in the future when the world will be a happier place, free from the threat of nuclear war and no longer torn by international hostilities. When that time comes, it will be in no small measure due to the dedication and selfless service of men like Dick Helms who have devoted their lives and invested their great skills and imaginations in creating an intelligence agency of unparalleled professionalism and expertise—and in the process making this a safer and more peaceful world for all of us.

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